

SRP-Westerly '4th Annual Garden Tour'

The Garden Club's annual 'Garden Tour' was held on Saturday **June 14, 2025** from 10am - noon. This free, guided outing featured four different residents' yards where each homeowner had a different story to tell as they showed off their passion for plants!

Karen B. on Whitaker Dr was our first 'tour guide' and she shared knowledge of her Franklinia Tree, which has been extinct for over 200 years, but luckily now survives as a cultivated species. The botanist who found the tree and saved some seeds in 1765 was James Bartram. Karen was also excited to tell us she is a descendant of Mr Bartram.



We then stopped at **Tammy M.'s on Millbrook Dr.** Her backyard is unique in that she has over 50 plants growing all in pots! She cultivates vegetables, herbs, annuals, perennials and shrubs all in containers so she can easily move them around. Tammy also displays a fun & unusual garden-art collection, buying most of her items at yard sales.

Next we were off to **Nina & John D.'s yard on Millbrook Dr.** When Nina cooks, she uses all different herbs that she grows. John works on the landscape design and has done many plant experiments with what deer will eat, including fake forsythia branches with yellow silk flowers!

Lastly, we visited the yard of **John & Beth R. on Edgewater Dr.** They do not like to use enclosures to control deer browse but instead grow only plants that deer do not prefer to eat. John has an inspiring Bonsai collection and he shared tips & strategies on how he grows them.

